

again, when we are lucky enough to be brought up, the only things the politicians have to say, are, "Don't do drugs" and "Stay out of trouble." Nothing exciting about that. We hear it from our parents everyday. If it worked, there'd be a lot more happy people in the world.

But, seriously, the President has to get more in touch with the times. He's lacking the excitement we need to keep us interested, and he's boring us to death.

A great example of this would be the voter turnout among our youth. Very, very few young people vote, and why do you think that is? I know why; because we don't care about the politicians. Because we don't think they care about us. Why should we support them if they don't support us? It's not like I'm just gonna wake up one day when I'm 30, and just go, "WOW! I love politics! I think I'm gonna run for President!"

With so many teenagers with this attitude, it's gonna take a lot to get them to turn around and start getting involved and interested. With no signs of Mr. Clinton even pondering to make any changes, it's not looking too good.

I don't want our President to run around listening to Rage Against the Machine, or go to a Smashing Pumpkins concert, or dye his hair blue. That will get our attention, but in the wrong way. He just has to focus more on us. He's always preoccupied with something else, and since we don't vote that much anyway, why should we waste all that time?

It's a sad and vicious cycle that keeps turning and turning.

The President's greatest challenge this term is to get that cycle to stop. He has to—for the future of you, and your country. But since no one has said anything to him yet, it should, unfortunately, take a while.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 1997*

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation in favor of economic opportunity and vitality. The Fair Labor Standards Act [FLSA] was designed to promote economic opportunity. There have been instances, however, when unintended consequences are revealed. When they do, it is our imperative to correct them properly so that FLSA will be applied consistently and continue to promote basic economic fairness, its original goal. One unintended consequence, however, impacts a major economic force in our country as well as my home State of Idaho: Agriculture.

FLSA itself recognizes that agriculture is a special industry and consequently contains numerous exceptions to the applicability of FLSA's "time-and-a-half-overtime" provisions. Unfortunately, a sugar beet is deemed "not a vegetable" under FLSA. As a result, no overtime is due a farmer's workers if the farmer transports sugar beets from his fields to the processing plant. If a farmer stockpiles his sugar beets in an effort to be more efficient and then contracts transportation with a hauler to bring these same vegetables to that same plant, however, the hauler is nevertheless required to pay his drivers overtime. This occurs even though those plant workers are also exempt from FLSA's overtime provisions. The scenario is not hypothetical; it occurs regularly to one constituent of mine who has for years

been involved in the annual beet haul involving sugar beets. Ironically, applying FLSA to the beet haul actually lowers the compensation that his truck drivers are actually paid.

In Idaho, the beet haul requires farmers to stockpile their crops in beet piles and await the processor's delivery instructions. Once processing begins, it is a 24-hour-per-day, 7 days a week affair, lasting from late September until early January. The most economically advantageous method—to both drivers and their employer—for compensating beet haul drivers is to pay them by the load.

Truck drivers who want to work, hustle loads; they are rewarded for the diligent work ethic. The less motivated worker earns less. Unfortunately, with respect to my constituent—and my constituent alone—the Department of Labor has insisted that FLSA's overtime provisions apply to the beet haul.

In theory, FLSA requires all beet haul operations to pay "time-and-a-half." In reality, my constituent's competitors never have been required to comply with this FLSA provision; that competitor still pays by the load. This is despite the fact that both hauling entities are regulated by the Federal Department of Transportation. The competitor hauls a small percentage from beet piles located in Oregon—that is the only difference. This circumstance harms my constituent since his diligent workers are paid less under this rule and he must still absorb higher labor costs. This disparate treatment has caused my constituent to lose his better drivers repeatedly to his competitor. They earn more working by the load; my constituent pays more because he is not treated the same as other beet haulers.

One might already assume that FLSA's agricultural exemptions would cure this inequity. It does not: a sugar beet as defined under the act is not a vegetable and therefore, the exemption does not apply, even though a sugar beet is, in fact, a vegetable. Consequently, the beet haul does not enjoy the FLSA agricultural exemption which applies to other agricultural endeavors. This inequality thus requires a definitional, that is, a legislative, solution. The legislation I propose is simple, direct, and in no way will interrupt the overall flow and impact of FLSA. This legislation seeks to include sugar beets as vegetables in FLSA. This legislation will level the playing field and enhance one of the actual goals of the statute: economic fairness.

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES G. SANDMAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 1997*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Col. James G. Sandman, U.S. Air Force retired, for exceptional service to the community of Sacramento while serving as executive vice president of the Sacramento Association of Realtors since 1979. After 17 years of dedicated service, he and his wife, Barbara, are retiring.

A native Californian, Colonel Sandman's contributions have not been limited to his service with SAR. A member of a prominent Stockton family, he was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1947 and went on to a distinguished career in the

U.S. Air Force until retiring in 1976. One of the highlights of Colonel Sandman's Air Force career was to be stationed at the newly opened Air Force Academy for the graduation of the first class of Air Force cadets.

While serving in the Air Force, Colonel Sandman contributed to his country in a number of very important roles. He served as a command pilot and navigator during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, served on the Pentagon's Command and Control Staff, was part of a special exchange program and attended the Royal Air Force Staff College in the United Kingdom. His last tour of duty was commander of the Air Force Recruitment Wing for the Western Region. At one point, Colonel Sandman was chosen as the subject for a recruiting poster which was nationally distributed and displayed. During his military career, Colonel Sandman was honored with the Legion of Merit with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Immediately following his Air Force career, Colonel Sandman established himself in the Sacramento community by working on various political campaigns and managing a highly successful shopping center development project.

As executive vice president of the Sacramento Association of Realtors, Colonel Sandman led the organization as it quickly established itself as a concerned member of the community at large. Under his leadership as its chief staff member, SAR became a major contributor to charitable causes in the community and could always be counted on in a crisis. Included among his significant accomplishments are the conversion of a board-owned book multiple listing service to a board-owned computer multiple listing service, the building of a state-of-the-art headquarters for Sacramento Realtors, complete with an auditorium that is used by many organizations in the community, and the initiation of discussion with six Realtor associations in the surrounding areas regarding a regional association system.

Within the broader Realtor community, Colonel Sandman represented SAR with the highest of integrity and dedication. He served as director of the management committee for the Real Estate Land Use Institute, member and chair of the California Association of Realtors' Executive Officer's Committee, member of the National Association of Realtors' Executive Officer's Committee, and several other NAR and CAR Committees, including a stint on the CAR Executive Committee. He has also served on the California Department of Real Estate Task Force on Professional Standards.

Locally, Colonel Sandman is a past trustee of the American Red Cross, is involved with the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization [SACTO], and regularly contributes to a number of local charities and causes.

As an association executive, Colonel Sandman distinguished himself within that group's ranks as well. He is a past member of the American Management Association and is a member of the California Society of Association Executives. He served as a board member and president of CSAE and was awarded that group's Association Executive of the Year Award in 1987. He also earned the ASAE's highest designation, Certified Association Executive and just recently was awarded the first

and only National Association of Realtors' Lifetime Realtor Certified Executive designation.

In recognition of these contributions made to his country, California and the local Sacramento community, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting James G. Sandman and wishing both he and his wife, Barbara, luck and happiness in their retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN MARVIN BRAUDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary career of Los Angeles City Councilman Marvin Braude. After 32 years of dedicated service, Councilman Braude will soon return to private life. The city's 11th district, which he has so capably served, overlaps my own district, and includes communities such as Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, and West Los Angeles.

During his eight terms in office, Councilman Braude has been a champion of the environment, a crusader for government efficiency, and a source of wisdom in the development of local public policy. As an elected official, he has been a true renaissance man, at various times in his career serving as chair of the city's Finance and Revenue Committee, the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee, and the Public Safety Committee. He has also helped formulate city policy in information technology, public works, and zoning, and land use issues.

A lifelong conservationist and ardent bicyclist, Councilman Braude's leadership made possible the creation of a 50,000-acre public park within the city's limits in the Santa Monica Mountains. This area has been designated as permanent recreational open space and is a beautiful natural oasis within the city's borders.

Councilman Braude's legislative accomplishments have included authorship of the city's pioneering ordinances to protect nonsmokers from secondhand tobacco smoke. He has been honored for his work by the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, the League of California Cities, and the California Department of Health Services.

Councilman Braude has also had extraordinary success in sponsoring ballot measures to limit commercial density and to prohibit oil drilling along the city's pristine beaches. In addition, he has been the city council's leader in opening city government to the public and encouraging the participation of all citizens. And, he increased government accountability by creating the zero-based budgeting process that is now used as a management model by many municipalities.

Councilman Braude's commitment to the environment includes serving on the governing board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, helping to clean the air for 12,000,000 people in southern California. He is also the city's strongest advocate of electric vehicle technology and is helping to bring the entire automotive industry into the future by making the city of Los Angeles a friendly environment for electric vehicles.

Like many of our colleagues, Councilman Braude came to government from the private sector. He founded Capital for Small Business in Los Angeles, and was a founding member of the board of directors of Scientific Data Systems, which later became the computer division of Xerox Corp.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Councilman Braude for his full and fruitful career in public service, and in wishing him continued happiness and success in all future endeavors.

#### OFFICER BRIAN GIBSON TAX FREE PENSION EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 1997*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Officer Brian Gibson Tax Free Pension Equity Act of 1997, a bill which will allow the survivors of a Federal or local law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty to receive that officer's pension tax free.

This legislation bears the name of Officer Brian Gibson, a brave police officer, a hero recognized as a model by his peers, an example for all who wear a police officer's badge anywhere, and a District of Columbia resident who was laid to rest on February 10 after being fatally shot in the line of duty. Officer Gibson was a devoted family man who left a wife, Mrs. Tracie Gibson, and two children. He graduated from H.D. Woodson High School in the District. Officer Gibson was a family man devoted to his wife, his children, his family, his community, his city, and his Police Department. I name this bill for Officer Gibson to help us remember him and all officers who die in the line of duty, and to help young men understand the meaning of courage, manhood, service, and family.

Current Federal tax law allows officers who retire on disability to collect disability payments tax free. However, Officer Gibson's family must pay taxes on the survivor benefits of his pension. This disparate tax treatment is unfair because whether an officer retires on disability or is killed, that officer's family loses a wage earner, and in many instances, the family's sole wage earner.

This bill is retroactive to taxable year 1997 to enable Officer Gibson's young family and the survivors of other officers killed in the line of duty in 1997 to begin receiving their survivor benefits free of Federal income taxation. For the average officer's family, this bill could mean 28 percent more money in survivor benefits. The police families who have lost their loved ones in police service have lost the irreplaceable. I urge my colleagues to support the Officer Brian Gibson Tax Free Pension Equity Act and afford the families of our slain law enforcement officers the same tax free treatment in survivor benefits we have already granted to officers who retire on disability.

#### BILL TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF TV RATINGS MARCH 4, 1997

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 1997*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill, along with Representatives BURTON, SPRATT, MORAN, and others, to encourage the television industry to add content labels to the age-based TV ratings. Additional original cosponsors of "The Children's Protection from Violent Programming Act" include Representatives GREENWOOD, KLINK, POSHARD, KENNEDY, J., TAUSCHER, DEFazio, HINCHEY, FILNER, and HOOLEY.

The ratings system proposed by the TV industry last December has proved to be inadequate. It fails to inform parents of objectionable content, and it frustrates the use of blocking categories because they are so broad as to be useless. The V-chip law was intended to give parents the ability to block shows on the basis of violent, sexual, or profane content. Instead, the "V" for violence disappeared into the industry committee that developed the ratings system and has not been sighted since. We need to return to a content-based system.

This point has been made to the industry in every conceivable way—in private meetings, in academic research, in focus groups, in newspaper editorials—yet the industry continues to turn a deaf ear, sticking stubbornly to a system that is convenient for the industry, but condescending and contradictory to parents.

After all, who is raising our kids? Not Hollywood, not the broadcasters, not the cable industry. Parents, not corporations, are raising our kids. If we don't listen to them, the system is indeed a mess.

The system is condescending because it tells parents that "Hollywood knows best", that some industrial Big Brother will decide whether a show is appropriate for your child's age group. Parents don't want this decision left to a corporate executive. We have left the era of "Leave It To Beaver" and entered the era of "Beavis and Butthead." Instead of three channels, we have dozens, with more coming through the miracle of digital compression, satellites, and telecomputers. Today's parents want specific information about the level of violent or sexual material distributed in the form of entertainment to their home, so that they can decide for themselves what is appropriate for their own children to see on their own family TV set.

The system is contradictory because, on the one hand, it requires an executive to examine the show for the level of violence, sex, or language, but on the other hand, it denies that information to parents. Instead, everyone is asked to engage in a game of ratings Hide-and-Go-Seek where the executive disguises what he knows by throwing it into a giant category called "TV-PG".

In fact, an estimated two-thirds to three-quarters of all television programming is being tossed into this Black Hole called "TV-PG." What at first blush appears to be a six category system is, for most purposes, just this one category. It swallows up material that ranges across the entire spectrum of TV programming, from mild to graphic, from silly to